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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

CURRENT ISSUES

TIAGO OAS: HUMAN RIGHTS, CUBA

JUNE 9

SUMMARY

Foreign media coverage of the OAS meeting in Santiago was widespread--heavy in Latin America--stressing Secretary Kissinger's statements on respect for human rights in the Hemisphere and on the U. S. attitude toward any future Angola-style adventures by Cuba.

Opinion of Buenos Aires considered it "evident that repeated violations of human rights in America...are now inadmissible" and predicted increasing "problems of political isolation and difficulty in finding international financing (for) countries that violate human rights."

Presencia of La Paz headed its report from Santiago, "Kissinger at OAS: The Government That Tramples the Rights of Its Citizens Negates Its Own Reason to Exist."

West European papers paid close attention to the human rights question and reflected a general idea that the U. S., while criticizing the Pinochet regime, nevertheless supported it.

The Times of London held in an editorial that Secretary Kissinger's "mere presence in Santiago...sets at least a limited or conditional seal of American approval on the regime" and urged the U. S. to "calculate coolly whether General Pinochet's regime is a sound long-term investment, and whether there is any chance of genuine reform."

Soviet media condemned Dr. Kissinger's references to Cuba, charging him with "hackneyed attacks on the socialist countries" for their Angola policies, whereas "if one is to dwell on interference in other countries' internal affairs, the U. S. Secretary of State could hardly find a more 'suitable' rostrum than the Chilean capital, seized by the fascist military junta as a result of subversive activities by U. S. imperialist forces" (TASS).

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W E S T E R N E U R O P E

BRITAIN

London Headlines

British papers played Secretary Kissinger's address before the Organization of American States meeting in Santiago. These were headlines:

"KISSINGER CONDEMNS CHILE"

(Daily Telegraph)

"DR. KISSINGER REBUKES CHILE FOR 'TRAMPLING ON RIGHTS OF CITIZENS'"

(The Times)

"KISSINGER TAKES FIRM LINE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT OAS"

(Financial Times)

"Human Rights Statement Amid Controversy and Pressure"

Financial Times correspondent Hugh O'Shaughnessy in Santiago said Dr. Kissinger's statement "was made amid mounting controversy over the report from the OAS critical of the human rights situation in Chile and increasing U.S. domestic pressure on him to use his influence to moderate the policies of the Chilean junta."

"Reminded Ministers About Injustices"

The Daily Telegraph's Washington correspondent, Richard Beeston, reported that "State Department officials said Dr. Kissinger's statement (on human rights in Chile) was a strong affirmation of human rights and a turning point in OAS deliberations.

"Dr. Kissinger reminded the OAS ministers, however, that Chile was hardly the only nation guilty of injustices."

"Feather in Pinochet's Cap"

In an editorial, the independent Times asserted that Dr. Kissinger "must... know that his mere presence in Santiago is a feather in the cap of the regime. His visit therefore sets at least a limited or conditional seal of American approval on the regime after attempts earlier this year to give discreet support to the Christian Democrats, who were seeking allies in the army.

"This policy may be easier now in terms of American politics because of preoccupation with the election. In any case, there are few non-military regimes left in Latin America, so that Chile is less conspicuous. But it is a risky policy because it once again associates the United States with a military dictatorship..."

The paper concluded, "Perhaps it is somewhat ironical that the very people who condemn the United States for having denied economic help to President Allende for political reasons now call on it to deny help to General Pinochet for political reasons.

"Certainly it would be wrong for the United States to interfere directly in Chilean affairs in order to destroy him. It should, however, calculate coolly whether General Pinochet's regime is a sound long-term investment, and whether there is any chance of genuine reform."

"Cuba Statement a Sop to Hardliners"

Correspondent Richard Gott wrote in the liberal Guardian that "with so many Latin American delegates clearly adopting the tones of Ronald Reagan, Dr. Kissinger felt obliged to (say) that 'after the November elections you will discover that the U.S. is certainly not a second-class power.' As a sop to the Latin American hardliners, (he) said that the U.S. would never again allow Cuba to get away with what it had done in Angola....

"He warned the progressive nationalist governments in Latin America (principally Peru and Venezuela) to avoid confrontation in the North-South dialogue meetings now taking place in Paris."

FRANCE

"Arrests and Torture Continue"

Middle-of-the-road Figaro observed today, "The U.S. is the shield of Latin America, Kissinger tells the OAS.... Meanwhile, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has just issued a damning report on the Chilean junta.... Regardless of the decrees and declarations of good intentions, the arbitrary arrests, persecution and torture are continuing."

"Listing Liberties Granted to No One"

Yesterday the paper carried byliner Andre Frossard's observation that "the Government of Chile is announcing a new declaration of human rights which will be one of the most comprehensive in the world.

"It is enough for dictatorships to proclaim the contrary of what they do to make themselves feel consonant with the universal conscience. Since the totalitarians of the left never tire of listing the liberties which they grant to no one, there is no reason rightist regimes should deny themselves this simple pleasure.

"Two thousand years from now, if their writings survive, our century will be considered the most enlightened in all history. People will say, 'How lucky the peoples of that time were, especially in Latin America and in the countries of Eastern Europe! Good feeling had reached such a degree of concentration there that new camps had to be opened every year to give hospitality to holders of human rights coming to draw their liberties from the fountainhead."

"Kissinger Brings Congress' Demand for Liberalization"

Correspondent Claude Martial wrote today in Le Progres of Lyon that it was "clear that the OAS does not want to repeat with Chile the error committed in the case of Cuba for diametrically opposite political reasons. An embargo is a double-edged sword. Isolation does not necessarily weaken the authority of the regime against which it is directed, and it arouses nationalistic reactions."

Martial said "the participants in the Santiago meeting have taken note of General Pinochet's promises of liberalization, without perhaps wholly believing them....

"Mr. Kissinger brings to Santiago the demands of the U.S. Congress, which is incensed against the Pinochet regime: no financial aid without liberalization of the regime. "

"Pinochet Had to Grant Rights or Renounce U.S. Aid"

In a dispatch filed before Dr. Kissinger's address was delivered, correspondent Charles Vanhecke, in Santiago for independent-left Le Monde, wrote: "A few hours before Mr. Kissinger's arrival... General Pinochet ordered the release of 60 political prisoners. Forty-nine others had been released before the visit of Mr. William Simon early in May.

"One wonders whether the Chilean prisons might not eventually be emptied of political inmates if the members of the American Government would just visit Santiago one after another.

"Actually, the latest release simply illustrates ad absurdum how closely the junta remains subject to the desires of Washington. No one is any longer unaware of the hostility of the majority in the State Department toward General Pinochet, which faced him with a choice: He could either make concessions on human rights or renounce economic aid from the Ford Government. "

Vanhecke remarked that "the Latin American countries readily extol the community of their interests vis-a-vis the great power of the north, but most of them do not dare to define their positions before the North American partner has spoken. "

ITALY

"A Commitment from Pinochet? "

Papers in Italy inside-paged reports of the Kissinger speech.

Conservative Il Tempo of Rome today carried a dispatch from Santiago citing "some American Embassy officers" as saying "the Secretary seems to have

received from the Pinochet Government a private commitment to amend the constitution as soon as possible, providing more room for human rights."

Left-center Il Giornale of Milan reported from Santiago that in his "controversial" speech the Secretary "assured the Latin nations that the U. S. will be prepared to defend them should Cuba intervene," but that on the other hand "he resolutely rejected some anti-Communist positions which emerged within the OAS, energetically defending the policy of detente.... Problems of human rights were undoubtedly also discussed during talks the Secretary had with Pinochet."

Meanwhile, Socialist Avanti of Rome reported that "while a commission headed by the U. S. is trying somehow to exorcise the problem of human rights, there are hints that OAS may split over economic matters."

Pro-Communist Paper: "U.S. Endorsement of Regimes Like Chile's"

Washington correspondent John Cappelli wrote today in pro-Communist Paese Sera that "the State Department is trying in every possible way to stress the dissent against Pinochet's domestic policy in Kissinger's speech, the basic character of which was an out-and-out defense of imperialistic positions in Latin America..."

"The general refrain of the speech remains that subversion in cases like Angola will no longer be tolerated by the U. S. This practically means U. S. endorsement and protection of all regimes like the one in Chile, which dominate in Latin America."

Communist L'Unita asserted today that "Kissinger has acknowledged that Pinochet offered prospects of reform which leave hope for the future. As this was not enough, he hastened to defend the Chilean fascist regime, resorting to propaganda arguments against the Cuban government. He also defended detente."

WEST GERMANY

Limited Coverage

Papers held to news accounts of the Kissinger statements in Santiago.

First network television reported briefly last night that Mr. Kissinger had defended detente against criticism by Pinochet. The network also noted that the Secretary had declined to discontinue U. S. support of Chile despite continuing violations of human rights in that country.

L A T I N A M E R I C A

A R G E N T I N A

Headlines for Human Rights Statement

Today's Argentine media gave wide play to the meeting, with emphasis on Secretary Kissinger's speech.

Conservative La Prensa headlined: "Kissinger Denounces Deterioration of Respect for Human Rights--Warns Chile and Accuses Cuba of Inhumane Treatment of Political Prisoners." Cronista Comercial headlined: "Kissinger Pleads for Humanitarianism."

"Human Rights Violations Inadmissible"

A Santiago correspondent said in a detailed account in intellectual-left Opinion that "Kissinger indicated the OAS Human Rights Commission constitutes one of the most important for the Hemisphere and has performed its job with professionalism..."

He quoted the Secretary as having said that the status of human rights "has prejudiced and will continue to prejudice U.S. relations with Chile which we want to be close..." The correspondent observed that from statements of the delegates "it is evident that repeated violations of human rights...are now inadmissible to the international community" and cause "difficulty in obtaining international financing..."

In satellite coverage of the meeting a television commentator said of the Secretary: "He is the spectacular star at this meeting."

B R A Z I L

Emphasis on Talk With Pinochet

Brazilian media today took particular note of Secretary Kissinger's conference with President Pinochet in advance of his human rights speech to the OASGA.

Moderate Jornal do Brasil of Rio carried a front-page photograph captioned: "Kissinger Talks With Pinochet and Chancellor Azeredo da Silveira Before Accusing Chilean and Cuban Regimes." The paper cited the Secretary as saying the continuation of human rights violations (by the Chilean Government) would "jeopardize relations with the U.S."

"Weight Given Brazil by the U.S."

Conservative O Globo of Rio noted in its coverage that the Brazilian foreign minister met for two and one-half hours with the Secretary...which emphasizes to Brazilian authorities the new weight given Brazil by the U.S."

BOLIVIA

Headlines for Kissinger Phrases

Catholic Presencia of La Paz today carried wire-service accounts on page one, using phrases from the speech in heads and subtitles. Similar treatment was given by El Diario and Hoy, both independent.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Prominent newsplay of the Secretary's OAS speech as reported by the wire services appeared today in Peru, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic.

COMMUNIST MEDIA

SOVIET UNION

"Kissinger Rostrum for Attacks on USSR, Cuba"

In a dispatch from New York, TASS yesterday accused Secretary Kissinger of launching "hackneyed attacks on the socialist countries" at a time when "the Cuban military personnel are being withdrawn" from Angola. His purpose

in doing so, TASS alleged, was "attempting to conceal U.S. interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states." TASS continued:

"These attacks are part of the U.S. -sponsored propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union and Cuba because of the failure of the U.S. reliance on the South African racists' invasion and counter-revolutionary actions by rebel groupings in Angola....

"If one is to dwell on interference in other countries' internal affairs, the U.S. Secretary of State could hardly find a more 'suitable' rostrum than the Chilean capital seized by the fascist military junta as a result of subversive activities by U.S. imperialist forces."

TASS Cites Swiss Paper on OAS "Masquerade"

A TASS dispatch from Geneva on Monday cited independent La Suisse of that city as calling the OAS meeting in Santiago a "bleak masquerade." "The paper notes," TASS said, "that the very decision of the OAS to discuss the violation of human rights in the capital of a country where such rights are openly trampled upon by Pinochet's fascist regime is paradoxical and cynical, to say the least."

"Solidarity" Committee Protest

TASS English Service reported Sunday that "the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Chilean Democrats has released a statement protesting against the Organization of American States holding its session in Santiago. The document indicated that the OAS has decided to hold its session in a country where the legitimate government was overthrown, all semblance of legality was discarded and thousands of patriots were killed or put in prisons and concentration camps. The OAS decided to hold its session in a country that has been condemned for violating human rights by all prestigious international forums, a country that has been condemned by 95 governments at the 30th session of the U.N. General Assembly."

"U.S. Trying to Rehabilitate Chilean Regime"

A TASS dispatch from New York declared Sunday that the OAS meeting "is being held... in an atmosphere particularly nervous for the Chilean brass hats. The fascist regime is trying to use this OAS forum to deceive world public opinion by alleging that measures are being taken to bring the situation in the country 'back to normal.' Aware of support from Washington doing its best to 'rehabilitate' the criminal regime which has created most favorable conditions for the operation of American monopolies, the Chilean people's executioner Pinochet at the opening ceremony tried to deny the well known fact and cut short those who condemn terror in Chile...

"OAS Secretary General... Orfila reproached Washington for its continuing discriminatory trade practices, which hamper their economic progress. (His) report also expressed anxiety over the fact that the foreign monopolies operating in Latin American countries disregard these countries' interests and interfere in their internal affairs."